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Building Construction

## Annual February Sale

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## BARGAINS IN BOOKS

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For repairing China, Glassware, Furniture,  
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**MAJOR'S CEMENT**  
Major's Rubber and Leather Cement. All  
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The unemployed and those  
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Daily  
NEXT TO LAST PAGE

Sunday  
SECTION SIX

**THE NEW YORK  
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AID IN SMUGGLING  
DRUGS IS BARED IN  
CUSTOMS PROBE

Five More of the Inspection  
Staff Suspended as In-  
quiry Progresses.

**EASY ENTRY FOR GEMS**  
Evidence Found U. S.  
Agents Board Ships and  
Bring Jewels Ashore.

**INDICTMENTS TO COME**  
Investigation Into Graft Re-  
ceives Help of Woman, Vic-  
tim of the 'Ferret.'

Collector Byron R. Newton's investigation into graft in the customs service is bringing to light customs sharks and small fry grafters from all directions. In addition to the fifty inspectors and examiners of the outside force of the service who were suspended under charges, five more men were suspended yesterday pending further investigation of alleged gross irregularities.

One of those accused yesterday was an accomplished expert whose cunning and persistence have won for him the sobriquet "the Ferret." By that nickname he is known among his fellows along the waterfront and on ocean steamship piers. The customs officials have catalogued the charges against him as flagrant. The witness on whose evidence rest the charges brought against him is a French woman who arrived recently in this country accompanied by her maid. This is her story, in brief, as she has told it to the special agents of the Treasury Department who are doing most of the "sleuthing" in the Collector's drive to rid his department of crooks:

"The Ferret" was the inspector assigned to examine her baggage. She turned over her keys to him, and as he began delving into her first trunk, manhandling her dainty lingerie and toilet treasures after the customary manner, he would glance up at her at intervals, she says, with an insinuating smile. Then he would do a little shuffling pantomime with his thumb and forefinger, tap the trunk lid and murmur, "Well, come on, come on."

How the "Ferret" Worked.  
Madame says that at first she did not quite understand his meaning. But as the "Ferret" continued digging deeper into her trunk, she realized he was looking for something that was not there, but in her purse. She stooped beside him and gave him a ten dollar bill. He tucked it away, continuing his rummaging through the trunks and then varied his previous stage whisper to a reiterated "Come again, Madame; come again!"

With growing indignation Madame extracted from her handbag an additional "five spot" and tucked it into the toe of one of her evening slippers which at the moment was the object of the "Ferret's" interest. She said it did not remain there five seconds. The examiner still was unsatisfied, she avers, whereupon she took her temper and began to express her views in voluble French. Then the "Ferret," she says, fearing apparently that her expostulations might attract attention on the pier, calmed her by closing the trunk and hurriedly placing his mark upon all her baggage.

The French woman was indignant when she told her story, which was amply corroborated by her maid. Her attitude suggested that her temper was ruffled not so much by the need of "tipping" a uniformed subaltern—she is accustomed to that everywhere in Europe, she said—as by his alleged insolent manner.

Thomas E. Rush, Surveyor of the Port, issued a long statement yesterday in which he declared that the newspaper interviews in which Collector Newton has been quoted show a gross lack of information readily accessible to public officials. He denies the Collector's statement that fifty inspectors of the department's drug division were dismissed or suspended, and declares that according to the records of his office up to 2:30 o'clock yesterday, two inspectors had been dismissed and ten others are under suspicion.

No Revenue Loss, He Says.  
"Investigation will disclose the fact," said Mr. Rush, "that the reprehensible practices which are the foundation of the charges were brought to the attention of the acting deputy surveyors and staff of inspectors of the baggage division more than a year ago, immediately after transatlantic travel began to resume on a large scale. The suspected men, who are included in the list of those dismissed and suspended, were warned by the baggage deputy surveyors, as well as by the surveyor in person, and by Special Deputy Surveyor Buschler."

No information has been received by the surveyor that any revenue was lost as a result of the delinquencies of the inspectors in question. One case was regarded as a deliberate holdup and in the other cases the offending inspectors called at the offices of various passengers, and no complaint, oral or written, was ever made to the surveyor or to any representative of his by the passenger held up or by passengers offering gratuities, or by the agents or representatives."

Special agents who have been working under the collector's direction have discovered that collusion with the systematic smuggling into this country of narcotic drugs from Europe has been one of the most prolific sources of graft which unscrupulous men of the customs service have been garnering in a rich harvest.

Evidence Goes to Police.  
Cocaine, opium, heroin and all such prohibited narcotics, Collector Newton says, have passed through into this city with greater ease and probably in larger volume than ever before. Some of the men accused are under charges connected with their alleged connivance at this illegal traffic. In all such cases, the facts have been placed in the hands of Dr. Carleton Simon, Special Deputy Police Commissioner, in charge of the department's drug squad. Dr. Simon has pledged the cooperation of the department's resources to the limit. It is said that some of the evidence already obtained probably will lead to the exposure and arrest of persons who have been smuggling narcotics into the country.

There has been already a great deal of work done, the collector said, in checking up both the consignees of these

narcotic drugs and the inspectors who have conspired at the receipt and passage through customs. With the active cooperation of the city Police Department, as well as that of the Federal Department of Justice, it is hoped the illicit drug traffic may be controlled in this port.

Many of those Collector Newton has dubbed "baggage hounds" had grown bold to brazenness in their methods of exacting graft. When all the facts in the more flagrant cases have gone into the hands of Assistant United States District Attorney Earl B. Barnes for presentation to the Federal Grand Jury, it is said, there will be some startling disclosures. One of the reports current in the Customs House yesterday was that certain inspectors have acted systematically in collusion with habitual smugglers of jewels, especially in the smuggling into New York of uncut diamonds from Holland. At times, it is said, the unscrupulous Government agents even boarded incoming vessels at the piers and received packages of uncut gems from the smuggler before the latter had left his stateroom.

Majority Are Honest.

In some safe place the return transfer would be made, perhaps a day later, and the dishonest inspector or examiner then would receive the price of his faithlessness. It is even reported that some of these customs crooks, knowing that the smuggler could not "equal," habitually "hold out" a generous proportion of the gems as the self-appraised value of their professional services. The Collector wishes to emphasize the fact, however, that the conscienceless crooks among the nearly 500 men of the outside force are a comparatively small minority. A majority of the men, he says, are as honest as the sun. Scores of them have come to him zealous to aid him in ridding the service of those who have brought it into disrepute.

The fact that European travelers are accustomed to distributing largess for every possible kind of service rendered, customs officials say, has made easy money for the baggage hounds—those men who never have been in actual collusion with smugglers, but who would not hesitate to accept a proffered "tip" from a returning traveler who is anxious to have his baggage inspection expedited.

One of the interesting facts developed by this inquiry is that there are not a few men of large means who make a trip to Europe yearly who, on their return to New York, invariably hand a \$50 bill to the examiner who passes their baggage. They do it not because they have anything nefarious that they have not declared, but simply as a customary gratuity on their part and to assure prompt and diligent inspection.

One of this city's best known bankers admitted recently that such has been his habit. An examination of his customs declarations has disclosed a more than commonly acute conscience in giving to the Government every penny of its due. The banker gave the tip just as he would have given it to a head waiter who had served him well or whom he expected to serve in the future.

Thirty pounds of gum opium, which customs inspectors say is worth several thousand dollars, was confiscated yesterday by Inspectors Hokenam and Grumman, after they had found it hidden under the flooring in the fore-cabin of the steamship Blair at the foot of Java street, Brooklyn.

Search for the opium was made after Thomas E. Rush, Surveyor of the Port, had received information that the drug was being smuggled into the United States. Several ships were examined before it was found on the Blair.

HOUSE TAX EXEMPTION  
RETURNS TO ALDERMEN  
Proposed Ordinance Sent in  
Without Recommendation.

The general welfare committee of the Board of Aldermen voted yesterday without recommendation the proposed ordinance to exempt from taxation for ten years certain classes of new dwellings. The committee's action means that it was unable to arrive at a decision regarding the advisability or feasibility of such an ordinance and threw the ball back on the floor of the Board of Aldermen.

The ordinance provides exemption of \$1,000 a room, excluding bathrooms, up to \$5,000, for apartments or family houses. Ordinarily such a committee report would be over one week before being considered by the board, but Alderman William T. Collins, majority leader, announced he would ask unanimous consent for its consideration next Tuesday. One objection will postpone consideration for a week.

The committee refused to wait until next Monday for action so that a group of bankers who conferred this week with P. H. La Guardia, President of the Board of Aldermen, might appear before the committee. Henry H. Curran, President of the Borough of Manhattan, appeared before the committee and urged favorable action on the ordinance, stating that he had assurance that construction of dwellings would begin as soon as the measure became a city law. Alderman Louis Zeitner was dissatisfied because the proposed ordinance contained no provision limiting the rent which might be charged for tax exempt apartments.

SINGER SUES WIDOWER  
OF SIXTY FOR \$250,000

Charges Henry S. Wilcox  
Broke Promise to Marry Her.

Henry S. Wilcox, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Troy Laundry Machinery Company, was named defendant yesterday in a breach of promise suit for \$250,000 filed in the Supreme Court by Edith S. Kingman, otherwise known as Edith S. Kingman, an opera singer.

Mr. Wilcox is about 60 years old, a widower, and has a daughter, according to his brother, G. B. Wilcox, treasurer of the machinery company. The latter said that he was acquainted with the singer, but was unaware that his brother had been engaged. The suit was new to him, he added.

The plaintiff, who comes from Boston, charges that the defendant persuaded her to live in a luxurious manner and, as his fiancée, he gave her large sums of money. While she was living in this manner, which was in the spring of 1919, he informed her that he made a will in which she was to receive one-third of his estate, she alleges. She further declares that on September 29, 1919, in her apartment at 517 West 113th street, Mr. Wilcox promised to marry her at an early date to be mutually agreed. She adds that she is ready and willing to be married to him but that he refuses to have the ceremony performed.

**REPAIRED**  
WHILE  
WAIT  
I MAKE  
PIPS & GENUINE  
IMPORTED BIRAR ROOT  
WITHOUT PAINT OR VARNISH  
THAT NEED NO BREAKING IN  
WILKES PIPE SHOP 287 B'way

**PARKER'S  
HAIR BALM**  
Removes Dandruff, Itchiness, Falling  
Hair, Redness, Color and  
Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair  
Sells Everywhere  
W. L. Parker, New York, N. Y.

HETTRICK TO TRIAL  
NEXT, BACKER SOON;  
222 WILL FOLLOW

Brindell's Copartners in  
Building Graft to Face  
Juries at Early Dates.

**AFTER EIDLITZ'S SCALP**  
Untermyer Demands Reor-  
ganization of Employers  
and Workers Unions.

**BAN ON BUSINESS AGENTS**  
Labor Czar in Tombs, De-  
serted by All Except Brother,  
to Appeal Conviction.

With Robert P. Brindell, czar of the building trades unions, looking out from a Tombs window, preparations for the trial of the mass of other cases growing out of the Lockwood committee's inquiry into criminal conditions underlying the housing shortage went forward yesterday with a rush.

With the issuance of a statement in which he demanded the ousting of Otto M. Eidlitz, Samuel B. Donnelly and Charles Kelly from their positions of power in the Building Trades Employers Association, and put forward a plan for reorganization of this association and of Brindell's Building Trades Council along acceptable lines, Samuel Untermyer, volunteer chief counsel to the Lockwood committee, also announced that the next important building trades trial will begin next Tuesday morning immediately after Brindell has been taken before Supreme Court Justice John V. M. Avey for sentence.

This will be the first trial of John T. Hettrick, organizer of various groups of contractors who boosted prices through his system of connivance in submission of bids. Although there are several indictments hanging over his head, the prosecuting staff has elected to take him before the court first on one which charges him with having conspired with two labor union delegates and friends of Brindell to coerce contractors into joining his bands of price boosters. Henry L. Stimson, formerly Secretary of War, who recently accepted an invitation to join the special staff of building trades prosecutors, will conduct the prosecution in person, with the assistance of Kenneth M. Spence.

Backer to Face Jury Again.

It also was announced that Mr. Untermyer personally will place Georges Backer, builder, on trial again on charges of perjury growing out of his testimony before the Lockwood committee when he swore that he was unable to give the names of the person or persons to whom he paid a \$25,000 bribe, which resulted in the sudden ending of a strike which had been called by Brindell. Backer's recent trial, which resulted in a disagreement of the jury, was held in the Court of General Sessions, but Mr. Untermyer will prosecute him this time in the Extraordinary Term of the Supreme Court. At the last trial Backer was prosecuted by Emory R. Buckner and Stanley R. Hebert. All of the other building indictments, with their 222 defendants, and such further charges as may be made by grand juries still working on the housing inquiry, are to be tried, according to Untermyer, as rapidly as court rooms and juries can be obtained, so that there will be a steady flow of them for weeks to come.

In his public statement Mr. Untermyer accused the American Federation of Labor for "shirking its duty in permitting this den of thieves to exploit the building industry," and said that its officials of the American Federation of Labor, "but they are too timid and bureaucratic in their methods. The building trades department of the American Federation of Labor, and its government should be democratized to conform to that of other unions connected with the federation, so that the workers in their local unions will again have the selection of their own representatives and will know what is going on."

Laymen from among the workers themselves in the unions must replace AN tile or spare room in your home? Many desirable readers of The Herald may be looking for it. Place an ad. in the Phone Room. Columns to-morrow. Phone Fitz Roy 6000.—Ad.

DISCOVER A USEFUL  
PURPOSE FOR THIS POWDER  
AND REAP A  
RICH REWARD

27,000,000 Pounds  
(Approximately)  
SMOKELESS  
CANNON POWDER  
CELLULOSE AND CARBIDE.  
To Be Sold by Negotiation

Analysis of Cellulose Powder:  
Total Volatile (other alcohol, etc.),  
1 to 8%. Diphenylamine, 5%.  
Balance—Nitro Cellulose—Nitro-  
gen contents of same 12.60%.

Analysis of Carbid Powder:  
Cyan Carbon, 65%. Nitro Glyc-  
erine, 20%. Mineral Jelly, 8%.  
Gun Cotton is approximately  
13.25% Nitrogen.

Weights estimated—Neither  
amounts nor analysis warranted.

A Suggestion to Chemical and  
Other Plant Executives.

A conference among your engineers and  
chemists may direct the kind and  
this powder will find its way into commercial  
channels with profit to your company.

The secret may lie in the separation of the  
various elements and disposal of the  
chemical wastes. The powder may be discovered  
in the mining or stone quarrying fields,  
or in the manufacture of other kinds of powder, in  
the manufacture of fireworks, or as a fertilizing agent.

Quick action is imperative as the War  
Department must dispose of this material  
at once. Negotiations for the purchase of  
all or any part of this powder should be  
conducted direct with the

War Department  
Ordinance Salvage Board, Temp. Building No. 5,  
20th and B Sts., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Negotiations will close on March 31, 1921. This office will be very glad  
to supply further information on request.

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the professional delegates or so-called "business agents" like Aldermen Kennedy and Farley, who are more active in practicing city politics than in attending to the duties of their unions. Instead of being selected, as the delegates in the council now are, for a term of three years, at a salary of \$75 per week to do about two hours work a day and spend the rest of the time as tender to Tammany Hall local politics, the workers should elect them as they formerly did, for terms of six months, and they should be real workmen.

"The executive council itself, instead of being a mere rubber stamp for its president, selected by him as it is under the present constitution as framed by Brindell, should be selected from among the delegates by popular vote and made responsible to the members."

Employers Must Reform.

Referring to the Building Trades Employers Association, Mr. Untermyer said: "It must cease to be a cover for the practice of extortion on the public through criminal conspiracy in restraint of trade. Every association that is a member of the parent association must be free from the vice of unlawful combination and must be so maintained."

He said that such a plan could be effected in a few weeks and that he had promised several members of both the union and the employers body who are desirous of cleaning things up to lend his aid to them in working out a reorganization.

"It goes without saying," he declared, "that the present regime of both organizations must be completely wiped out and new regimes inaugurated. As Brindell automatically disappeared from the council, his friends and supporters, Eidlitz, Donnelly and Kelly, must get out of the management of the employers' association. It is strange that a man who has borne such a reputation of Eidlitz should be mere pawn in Brindell's hands. He and those who with him have pursued this unfortunate policy are at least to some extent morally responsible for his having wrought his cruel and wicked will and of having held this town in bondage like a captured city."

Brindell spent his first day of imprisonment in smoking long black cigars and meditating upon the predicament into which his conviction on the extortion charge has cast him. His only visitor was his brother Matthew. When reporters sent a note asking to see him he did not even reply. He took his meals from the other prisoners. His meals were supplied from a nearby restaurant.

It is probable that either Martin W. Laxton, Brindell's trial counsel, or John P. O'Connor, his personal counsel and Tammany Assemblyman from Charles F. Murphy's district, will call upon him this morning to discuss the possibility of discussing the appeal which it is certain he will take, and for talking over plans for making an application for a certificate of reasonable doubt.

INQUIRY IN QUEENS  
AWAITS CRAIG PROOFS

District Attorney Says Grand  
Jury May Not Investigate.

Dana Wallace, District Attorney of Queens, said last night that he would not begin a Grand Jury investigation into charges recently made by Comptroller Charles L. Craig that there appeared to be irregularities in building contracts in that borough until Mr. Craig furnished more proof than he has yet produced. At the same time Maurice E. Connelly, Borough President of Queens, declared that he would welcome investigation, and that if he was told to go before the Grand Jury—he is confined to his home with neuritis—he would have the Grand Jury brought to his house or be carried to the juryroom on a cot.

"I am personally investigating the meagre data before me as to the facts and law," said District Attorney Wallace. "Just as I personally investigate the facts at hand and the law applicable thereto in any case about to be presented to the Grand Jury, I am not interested in any controversy between the Comptroller of the city of New York and the President of the Borough of Queens."

"Comptroller Craig has stated that on this day (Friday) he would give a detailed statement with regard to all the facts which he claims warranted any public statement attributed to him. Common sense would dictate that no man could come by delaying an investigation until the Comptroller has had an opportunity to make good his statement. Unless I receive from the Comptroller by to-morrow morning proof of specific charges concerning any criminal misconduct on the part of any one with regard to city affairs in the county of Queens, I shall write the Comptroller to the extent that I assume he possesses none."

"Unless I have further data than I possess at present I will state now that no investigation will be commenced on my own initiative."

Mr. Craig made no further statement yesterday concerning his charges.

## The Book of Susan

By Lee Wilson Dodd  
"I read the first three lines and was gripped, and stayed gripped to the end."—From a Casual Reader.

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ATTACK ON Y. M. C. A.  
PUBLISHED TO-DAY

The 'Catholic News' Gives  
Text of Circular Letter of  
Holy Office.

The full text of the attack on the teachings of the Young Men's Christian Association and certain other non-Catholic societies in a circular letter emanating from the Holy Office of the Roman Catholic Church will be published in full in translation to-day in *The Catholic News*. The document was issued by the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office and signed by Cardinal Merry del Val, former Papal secretary. The Y. M. C. A. is mentioned specifically and attention also is invited to the monthly publication of the Baptist Church in Rome and two other religious organs.

The Sacred Congregation asks that in each region "an official act of the hierarchy declare duly forbidden all the

daily organs, periodicals and other publications of these societies of which the pernicious character is manifest." Parish priests and directors of organizations for the young are urged to "fulfill their mission bravely, and particularly by the diffusion of books and pamphlets so as to raise up barriers against the encroaching waves of error, to expose the tricks and snares of the enemy, and to give efficacious aid to the defenders of the truth."

The letter refers to the objects of criticism as organizations "bracing members of every nationality which have for some time been accustomed 'to lay dangerous snares for the faithful, especially the young folk.' These, it is observed, 'provide in abundance facilities of every kind which apparently aim only at physical culture and intellectual and moral training, but in point of fact corrupt the integrity of the Catholic faith and snatch away children from the church, their mother.' Specific criticism of the Y. M. C. A. is made near the end of the letter.

"Among these societies," the letter reads, "it will suffice to mention that which, having given birth to many others, is the most widespread (by reason especially of the important services which it rendered to a large number of unhappy people in the course of the terrible war) and disposes of the most considerable resources: we mean the society called

the Young Men's Christian Association and in abbreviated form the Y. M. C. A. Non-Catholics of good faith give their support inadvertently, considering it an organization of advantage to all, or, at least, inoffensive to everyone, and it is also supported by certain Catholics who are too confident and are ignorant of what it is in reality; for this society professes a sincere love of young folk, as if nothing was dearer to it than the promotion of their corporal and spiritual interests; but at the same time it shakes their faith, since by its own confession, it proposes to purify it and to impart a more perfect knowledge of real life by placing itself above every church and outside every religious denomination." ("What the Y. M. C. A. is and What It Proposes," brochure published at the central office, Rome).

"What good can be expected from those who, lambling from their hearts the last vestiges of their faith, go far from the cradle of Jesus Christ, where they enjoyed happiness and rest, to wander at the instigation of their passions and their nature?"

Officials at headquarters of the International Y. M. C. A., 34 Madison Avenue, declined to comment on the translation which was published yesterday. It was said that they had been apprised of the letter by a French translation which appeared in one of the Montreal newspapers several days ago.

## MEN'S SUITS

\$37.50

Formerly priced up to \$59.75

If your fall suit shows signs of wear, and you are not quite ready for a spring suit, grasp this opportunity. The advantage will be all yours.

Many fabrics—medium weights; many models—all correct and popular. And all well tailored.

## Winter Overcoats

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Only 360—all that remain after a busy season—reduced to this price for instant clearance.

Plenty of styles; single and double breasted box coats, double breasted ulsters and ulsterettes.

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in his  
**Library**  
"close up"  
word picture of  
the Famous Inventor  
midst his 40,000 to 50,000  
volumes  
in the Book Review  
Department of  
**NEXT SUNDAY'S HERALD**